

Appendix table 7-31

**Public perceptions of scientific consensus on public issues: 2006 and 2010**

(Percent and mean score)

Group/public issue	2006							2010						
	Degree of consensus (on scale of 1 to 5)							Degree of consensus (on scale of 1 to 5)						
	Near complete agreement				No agreement at all	Don't know	Mean score	Near complete agreement				No agreement at all	Don't know	Mean score
	5	4	3	2	1			5	4	3	2	1		
Medical researchers on importance of stem cells for research	19	33	29	4	5	9	3.6	28	30	26	6	4	7	3.8
Nuclear engineers on risks and benefits of nuclear power to generate electricity	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	19	34	28	6	3	11	3.7
Environmental scientists on existence and causes of global warming	14	28	35	9	6	9	3.4	15	23	35	11	10	6	3.2
Medical researchers on risks and benefits of genetically modified foods	9	19	41	11	7	13	3.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Economists on effects of reducing federal income taxes	5	15	40	14	13	13	2.8	5	16	38	14	15	12	2.8

NA = not available, question not asked

NOTES: Responses to *To what extent do [people in group] agree on [public issue]?* Mean consensus score based on 5-point scale, where 5 = near complete agreement and 1 = no agreement at all. In 2006, questions on stem cell research and global warming asked of 928 survey respondents; questions on genetically modified foods and federal income taxes asked of 936 respondents. In 2010, questions on stem cell research and global warming asked of 961 survey respondents; questions on nuclear power and federal income taxes asked of 971 respondents. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006, 2010).

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